

CUT-OVER LANDS

BY ANDREW PRICE, IN THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK, PUBLISHED BY THE C. AND O. RAILROAD

Grass never grew where Attila's horse had trod. And another poisonous hero made a solitude called it peace. And all the pictures worth printing in the magazines of deforested American soil show a black, barren soil without a sign of vegetation, and so we thought when the lumbermen got through with a tract of land that we would have to walk backward and cover it with blankets, it would be so naked.

But that is not the way that nature works in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. She does not lose a minute in draping her favorite retreats in verdure. We ought to have known better than to doubt her from our experience in clearing land. It is a well known fact that where such luxuriant forests as ours abound that he who would reclaim a portion of the surface has to maintain a force of night watchmen to keep the brush down. Nature makes a goat of the husbandman.

It is safe to say that for many thousand years before Columbus sailed for America that the region where we now sit, embellished by all that enhances civilized life, was a country of mature forests, and that century after century after century passed without any material change in the growth of the timber. As the great trees grew old and fell, new trees would take their places, and the status of the forest was fixed. This constituted great waste, from one point of view, for each succeeding century would have restored the forests, and the sparing of these trees was like the hoarded gold of a miser—doing no good, and not increasing or diminishing. The lumbermen have marked the mature trees on about fifty per cent of the wild land, and that land increases in growth in a single year more than the original forest increased in the days of Nineveh and Tyre to the beginning of the twentieth century.

I can not imagine how the arts of forestry could be exercised in a country which had already attained perfection in regard to the growth of timber. But I can see how a country of rich soil, when it has once been denuded of its trees, could be put to the use of producing another crop of trees. Age has little to do with the growth of a tree compared to opportunity. A good many years ago I set out in my front yard two North Carolina poplars. The one that is at the foot of the hill, where the moisture gives it a chance, is a tree of about a foot in diameter; and the other about thirty feet away on a rise in the ground is less than four inches. Both trees appear to be healthy.

A few years ago, in locating a corner tree that had been marked in the year 1796, the surveyor found a small spruce of four inches in diameter, on Cheat Mountain. The tree bore the unmistakable three marks of the surveyor which was once the "broad arrow" of the Old Country. The tree was supposed to be too small to be of any value as evidence of such an old title, but a block was taken from out, and by the use of a plane, it was smoothed across the grain to make inspection possible. Then with a good glass, the annulations were counted and they registered the right year and the corner was established beyond a doubt. The tree grew in a thick growth of

evergreens, and was healthy but it had no chance to grow large.

These annulations of trees, one to each year, are the oldest weather records that are obtainable, and the observer can tell from the size of the rings—whether the season was wet or dry according to the growth made that year, a large growth being shown in wet years and smaller rings for the dry years.

The first time that my attention was called to the possibilities of raising a new crop of trees to take the place of the mature trees that had been cut down for lumber was by an old farmer, who said that the cut-over portion of his farm was the most valuable land that he had. He refused a liberal offer for this acreage, declaring that at the price that was offered that the natural growth of the trees was better than six per cent on the money that the land would bring. I have thought about this a thousand times since then, and I can find no flaw in his theory.

The most remarkable timber deal that I ever heard of was in this county when a second growth tract of chestnut of two hundred and sixty nine acres was sold for forty thousand dollars. This tract of land was on the broad top of Elk Mountain, and had been backed before the Civil War for blue-grass land. The war coming the land was allowed to grow up in brush and was not touched for forty-five years. It reproduced in chestnut, and at that time the big chestnuts were just the right of large telegraph poles, and the growth was as thick as the hair on a dog's back, as the saying is. The owners realized the nature of their holding and asked this enormous price and got it from one of the largest telegraph companies in the world. The buyer constructed a big pond for creosote and cut the poles and put them in it, and then shipped them to the North. I never heard how many poles were cut from this tract, but the workmen were here a long time in getting them off.

I can very well remember when the original growth of white pine was cut from the lands around the mouth of Deer Creek, on Greenbrier River, where the town of Cass is now built. In all, something like five hundred millions of feet of white pine was cut in this county and floated down the river in drives before the railroad was built. This white pine was discovered by a Pennsylvania soldier who marched through this country in the sixties. He came from a white pine country in the Clearfield part of his State, and after the war he bore in his mind the fact that in West Virginia there was a similar body of white pine, and a Pennsylvania company operated it from 1876 to 1900 forming the biggest industry in this county during those years. Some of this white pine was sold as low as two cents a thousand feet by original landowners, who had visions of clearing the lands, and wanted to get rid of the big trees so that it could be cleared more cheaply. This was in the days when the finest logs went into the log heap on the day of the log-rolling and were burned.

Not long ago, from the windows of a train I saw a small portable saw mill set at the mouth of Deer Creek, and learned that the mill was set there to saw logs of second growth white pine which had followed the old cutting.

It is a well known fact that lands in this section of country rarely reproduce in the kind of timber that was dominant at the time that the cutting took place.

I take it that only the work of ages would reproduce the forest as we found it. This is not strange, as there are about forty varieties of trees on the average range of forest in this part of the country. The earth has been fed by the great forests for centuries with life, and there is no such thing as cutting hardwood land so that the trees of some kind or other will not immediately grow and keep growing until a luxuriant forest is again on the cut-over area. In the summer time it is practically impossible to tell at a distance whether you are looking at a mountain, that has been culled of its big trees or not.

The question of rainfall has been agitating the national government of late years. So far as I have heard, the prices that it offers for mountain land are too small to be considered by the owners of the rich cut-over lands of this valley. So far as I am informed, the government has never considered the advantage of acquiring large tracts of land which once had splendid forests, and which have thus proved their worth and their ability to grow trees. It seems to me that the government could well afford to buy rich lands and wait for the fifty years to roll by and have something for the investment, rather than to buy cheap lands which have never had a good growth of trees for the reason that the character of the soil is such that no merchantable timber ever grew upon it.

I take it that about fifty years is about the period that would be required to make a showing in timber trees. This is too long for a private enterprise, for the investor could not hope to realize upon his investment. But far-sighted statesmen can readily see that for this reason it makes an attractive proposition for the government which all believe to be a stable one.

I am well acquainted with those countries of cheap lands where the mountains are barren and frowning. In these countries the wash of the land has made broad fertile valleys, but the headlands themselves are bald, and have always been bald.

Such lands are well described as waste lands. Perhaps some niche or cranny has caught enough of the wash to support a stunted tree or two that causes the land to be called, by courtesy, woods, and which is advertised as timber lands. It is self evident that if a million years did not produce a forest of merchantable timber that there is no hope that one more century will make a forest. No forest has ever grown on these barren mountains, and none ever will. Such lands have not sufficient substance to support human life. The vegetation is such that it does not shield the rainfall. The economic feature insures what scanty growth is found remaining there without cost to the government, for it will never be molested, whether the government buys it or not. There is just about as much sense in a bald man trying to make hairs grow on his congenital affliction, by the use of nostrums, as to try to help the watershed by dealing in barren lands.

If the price of cattle stays up, this country will soon be taken up by the stock raiser. Otherwise it will lay-out until some day the owner will be surprised to find that he has another crop of timber. The Pennsylvanians all tell us that the man always was the one that made the money in Pennsylvania.

Examples of the growth of timber here would be easily compiled by any one interested. He can find forests of any age from one year to fifty years, and judge for himself as to the period necessary to realize results. Already many a man has found to his astonishment that he has trees big enough for ties on his land that he has seen cut clean of all trees big enough to make a fence post.

A forest is a long time in growing, but they do grow.

It is a well known fact that lands in this section of country rarely reproduce in the kind of timber that was dominant at the time that the cutting took place.

PARDON FOR TOWNSMAN

E. M. ARBOGAST, EX-SHERIFF, PARDONED FOR CARRYING A GUN.

Governor Hatfield granted a pardon to E. M. Arbogast, one of Marlinton's most prominent citizens, and of all the thousands and thousands Christmas presents that passed in this town during this happy season, that pardon was the one most appreciated.

At the last term of the court Mr Arbogast was found guilty of carrying a revolver and there was no option but to impose the sentence of six months provided by the statute. It was shown in the evidence that he considered himself, at the time he stood off his opponent with the pistol, in danger of his life or great bodily harm and that he is a man getting up in years and of slender physique.

Judge Dice, while he was powerless as a judge to mitigate the sentence, considered that it was a proper one for executive clemency and so recommended.

Mr Arbogast is extremely grateful to the Governor and to the Pardon Attorney, and to all his friends who so nobly came to his support.

It would have been very embarrassing for a man in his position as an important and useful citizen to stay in jail for six months and work the county roads, besides he did not really have the time to spare. It would also have been embarrassing to his many friends to have passed in automobiles and seen him working with pick and shovel in the side ditch.

MARY JANE BRUFFEY

The subject of this sketch was born in Greenbrier County, October 23, 1831, and departed this life December 21, 1916, making her 85 years, 1 month and 28 days old. Her husband, Bradford Barton Bruffey preceded her to the great beyond nearly thirty-six years. Left on time's side of the bar are their three sons and four daughters—N. S. Bruffey and Mrs. Geo. W. Whiting, of Renick; J. F. Bruffey, T. A. Bruffey, Mrs. G. P. Shisler and Mrs. J. B. Grime, of Lohel; Mrs. C. M. Sarver, of Morrisville, Virginia.

Mrs Bruffey was a daughter of Salathiel and Mary Watts, of Greenbrier County. She was one of those noble and magnanimous characters whose friends are numbered by her acquaintances; being ever ready to minister to the wants of those in need of help and sympathy. She was a faithful and loyal Christian, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South for many years. She tried to make every one feel at home with her, and her house was ever open to the itinerant minister, who found it a haven for rest and refreshment.

The funeral was conducted by Revs. W. D. Eye and J. W. McNeil at Emmanuel church, from which, just as the evening sun was sinking in the golden west, her remains were tenderly borne by six of her grandsons, Cecil, Ross and Edwin Bruffey, Dee and Clyde Grimes and Tom Whiting, to their final resting place, to await the resurrection of the just. J. B. G.

The first month of Boyer Siding school closed Dec. 22. Enrollment 44. Charles Spencer, teacher. Those neither absent nor tardy during the month. Beulah, Ethel, Clarence, Fred, Albert, Harlie and Basil Nottingham, Lelia Van sicker, Margie and Jesse Yarnell, Tressie and Treston Lambert, Florence Kennedy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lanty McNeil were called to Monterey last week by the death of Mrs. McNeil's father, Squire Osborne Wilson, which occurred rather suddenly at his home in Monterey, on Thursday, December 21, 1916. Mr. Wilson was about 83 years of age, and was one of the leading citizens of Highland county. During the war he was a Confederate soldier, a member of the 31st Va.

DUNMORE

Marion Galford has moved to the old McCutcheon homestead.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gutshaw, a girl.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, a girl.

The Carpenter boys have taken the cutting of the Pritchard timber. Reece Pritchard will do the skidding. The Warr railroad is into the timber.

Harry Thompson is skidding logs to Dunmore.

Harry Taylor has moved his sawmill and will soon be ready to saw.

The venerable Peter McCarty came to mill Monday in a snow storm.

The mails are terribly crowded now days. Charles Williams of N. Y., does a great business in this county.

Some of the old groundhogs had better stay in this cold weather.

Married, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thompson, by Rev. G. H. Echols, their eldest daughter Onie to Russell Campbell, Sunday December 17, 1916, at 10 o'clock, in the presence of a few of their friends. After the ceremony a bountiful dinner was served. Miss Thompson is a teacher and Mr. Campbell has a job under Uncle Sam. They will make their home at Dunmore. We wish them success in all their undertakings, and may their young lives be crowned with the richest blessings of Heaven.

Uncle S. S. Varner stopped in town on his way to Virginia.

Cousin Jim Loury spent a few days with friends and relatives in town.

Miss Ruth Grimes is home from Buckhannon school.

Merritt Moore and Miss Mabel Moore are home for the holidays.

Henry Thompson and Frank Galford are home from Akron, Ohio, where they have been working for some time.

Zin Campbell has gone to Ohio to make automobile fixtures in the Goodyear rubber factory.

Miss Margaret Pritchard is up for the holidays.

Quite a good many entertainments were held at various places in the neighborhood which were highly appreciated by the little folks as well as the larger ones.

Mrs. Verdie B. Mann is spending the week at Seebert.

Every thing seems to be working nicely since the big wedding the 7th day of November, 1916, when the West and South united on Woodrow Wilson and joined hands for a long time.

If you want the cost of living reduced, more people must go to work in the ground and raise more wheat, corn, potatoes, cattle, etc.

We have the land and there is no excuse. Another thing will help out and that is good roads.

Billy Sunday ought to come to West Virginia and get some people to hit the sawdust trail. She is not dry by a d—d sight.

CAMPBELL-THOMPSON

Married, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thompson, at Dunmore, their daughter Onie Blanche to Luther Russell Campbell on Sunday December 17, 1916, at 10 a. m. Immediately after the ceremony dinner was served to the following guests—Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Swecker, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Campbell and little daughter Catherine, Misses Merle Moore, Emma, Lollie Grey and Pocahontas Grimes; Messrs Ernest Campbell, Gay Campbell, Lesle Kennison, and Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Grimes. We wish this young couple a long and prosperous life.

A fine big deer was seen in the Denmar mill yard last week. It had come down from the mountain and laid down in a nice quiet place behind a lumber pile.

BOYER SIDING

We had quite a wind storm Friday.

John W. Hevener preached for us Sunday night.

Our school is progressing nicely with Charles Spencer, teacher.

Arthur Nottingham and Tom Butcher will spend the holidays visiting relatives and friends at Elkins, Junior and Clarksburg.

Loring Nottingham has had a right sick child, but it is better at this writing. Dr. Hull attending physician.

William Myers intended to move on his farm near Durbin last week but did not get to move on account of ice in the river.

Superintendent Williams visited our school Thursday.

Quite a number of our people were shopping in Durbin last week.

TOP ALLEPHANY

Snow drifts in the road, and Billy Wimer is not running his car.

Howard and George Phillips went to Bartow Saturday.

Charles Spencer spent Christmas at home.

Jake Kramer and wife were visiting K. D. Wilmoth's Sunday.

Mrs. W. B. Freeman has been right sick but is some better now.

Ed Freeman made a business trip to Bartow and Durbin last week.

LOCUST CREEK

W. L. Downing has a position with F. P. Kidd at present.

A. V. May has purchased an automobile.

Arnold McCovy has left for Greenbrier County to spend his Christmas.

Dorsey May has a position with M. N. McCoy.

Sidney McCoy is visiting friends at Mt. Grove, Va. this week.

A. H. McCoy has finished excavations in the construction of his new dwelling.

D. C. McCoy and wife are visiting at Elkins this week.

The young folks spent an enjoyable time at the Christmas tree Saturday night.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

In memory of Brother George W. D. Hibbert who died November 20, 1916.

Once again a Brother Mason, having completed the designs written for him on life's trestle board, has passed through the portals of eternity and entered the "Grand Lodge of the New Jerusalem and bath received his reward, the white stone with the new name written thereon.

And, Whereas, the all-wise and merciful Master of the universe has called from labor to refreshments our beloved brother, and he having been a true and faithful member of our beloved Order, therefore be it resolved,

That Riverside Lodge, No. 124, F. & A. M., of Cass, West Virginia, in testimony of its loss, be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that we tender to the family of our deceased brother our sincere condolence in their deep affliction and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family.

Signed
A. NORMAN SMITH,
AMOS S. GILLISPIE,
STARRETT D. HUFF,
Committee.

More than one-twentieth of the buckwheat produced in the United States is raised in West Virginia.

HILLSBORO

Mrs. John A. McNeil, after a visit of about two months with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Beard, left last week for her home at Farmington, Washington.

Miss Maymie Sydenstricker is home from her school in Richwood to spend the Christmas holidays with her mother and sister.

Mrs. E. H. Moore went to Charleston last Saturday to visit her daughter Mr. J. Forrest Hill. She will remain there until the first of the year. She was accompanied by Mrs. M. P. Burr, of Marlinton.

Mr. and Mrs. Lanty McNeil were called to Monterey, Va., on account of the death of Mrs. McNeil's father, the venerable Osborne Wilson.

Mrs. Verdie B. Mann, teacher in the Dunmore school, came home to spend the holidays with her sisters, Miss Alice Clark and Mrs. Yeager.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Overholt of Elkins, are spending the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Overholt.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fuller of Ronceverte, spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Sydenstricker.

Henry Beard and Hubert Kidd are at home from the University at Morgantown.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Clark of Huntington, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillard spent Sunday with her father's family, F. T. LaRue. Graham LaRue of the Huntersville school, is also at home with his parents.

We were glad to see Robert Burns in town Christmas day.

Misses Hall and Cokeley of the High school, and Mr. Jones, principal of the Grades, and Miss Mary Kincaid left for their respective homes at the close of school Friday evening.

Geo. W. Callison expects to visit his sons Richard and Homer in Virginia the latter part of this week.

Jas. W. Jordan wears the blue ribbon for having butchered the largest hog under two years old in the three counties—Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas—that we have heard of. His gross weight was 634 pounds, and when dressed he tipped the beam at 570 lbs. Now if any one questions this statement let him go to J. H. Clark's Art Gallery where he can see a photograph of the hog and get first hand information as to what we say.

TRAIN WRECKED

Last Thursday evening the passenger train from Winterburn was wrecked a mile and a half above the Marlinton Depot and the three passenger coaches were derailed. The cause was a broken rail. Only the parlor car went to the river. No one was seriously injured, though Robert Poage, of Wytheville, Va., has since been in the Marlinton Hospital. Mr. Poage is an engineer in the employ of the Interstate Commerce Commission with the corps which has been working on the Greenbrier Division. Mrs. Frazier, of Ronceverte, a daughter of Dr. P. D. Arbogast, of Morgantown, was in the parlor car. The wreck delayed traffic about six hours.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Marlinton, W. Va., Dec. 28—Mrs. A. McLaughlin, Mrs. Pat Murphy, Mrs. Haley Holmes, R. Bennett, Roscoe C. Bennett, I. C. Raines, 2, Taylor Spinks, Nastasia Werteko, Marion Waugh, 3.

FOR RENT—Two houses in Campbelltown, recently repaired inside and out. Apply to J. L. McNeil, Marlinton, W. Va.

A Timely Suggestion

Christmas as a gift season is a joyous time for individuals only if they are prepared to meet its demands without financial strain.

Are you among those individuals whose gift desires were made easy and practical this year through a Saving Account?

If not, we cordially invite you to begin one now in preparation for next year.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

CHRISTMAS 1916

BY ANNA L. PRICE.

Christmas is here,
The feast of the year—
And the ground is whitened with snow
Ye evergreen trees,
Come in doors, if you please,
Holly berries and mistletoe.

The children are glad,
Each lassie and lad
Is singing a Christmas lay:
Yes, gifts galore,
But there's something more
To fill up the Christmas day.

Far back in time
There pealed a sweet chime,
From Heaven to Bethlehem road,
—Jesus had come.
To make earth his home,
And bring a lost world unto God.

Christmas is here,
And the bells ring clear
Hearts happy and cheerful voices:
It is a good day,
Let young and old say,
O rejoice in the Lord and rejoice.



The Three Wise Men

of the East that followed the Star of Bethlehem to the manger where the infant that changed the world's destiny was born, were possessed of that wonderful intuition called "foresight." Foresight will change your destiny from ruin to prosperity by reimbursing you if your home should burn down if you have had the foresight to insure in a sound company like the

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